



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5344

LCO No. 1549



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE
NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2016*) (a) In any prosecution
2 under section 53-247 of the general statutes, or in any proceeding
3 pursuant to section 22-329a of the general statutes or in the criminal
4 session of the Superior Court regarding the welfare or custody of an
5 animal, the court may order, upon its own initiative or upon request of
6 a party or counsel for a party, that a separate advocate be appointed to
7 represent the interests of the animal or the interests of justice. If a court
8 orders that an advocate be appointed to represent the interests of the
9 animal or the interests of justice, the court shall appoint such advocate
10 from a list provided to the court by the Commissioner of Agriculture
11 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

12 (b) The advocate shall: (1) Monitor the case; (2) consult any
13 individual with information that could aid the judge or fact finder and
14 review records relating to the condition of the animal and the
15 defendant's actions, including, but not limited to, records from animal

16 control officers, veterinarians and police officers; (3) attend hearings;
17 and (4) present information or recommendations to the court pertinent
18 to determinations that relate to the interests of the animal or the
19 interests of justice.

20 (c) The Department of Agriculture shall maintain a list of attorneys
21 with knowledge of animal issues and the legal system and a list of law
22 schools that have students, or anticipate having students, with an
23 interest in animal issues and the legal system. Such attorneys and law
24 students shall be eligible to serve on a voluntary basis as advocates
25 under this section. The provisions of sections 3-14 to 3-21, inclusive, of
26 the Connecticut Practice Book shall govern a law student's
27 participation as an advocate under this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	New section
-----------	------------------------	-------------

Statement of Purpose:

To permit the use of animal advocates in certain legal proceedings relating to neglected or cruelly treated animals.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]